

I am opposed to House Bill 3382.

The bill would weaken land use planning in coastal areas, allowing ports to dredge without complying with state and local land use regulations. Such actions allow special interests to move ahead of common interests.

Estuaries are critical coastal ecosystems. They nurture a variety of species of interest to people such as salmon, Dungeness crab, herring, oysters, clams, and migratory waterfowl. Intact estuarine systems can enhance water quality, provide buffering from storms, and sequester carbon. They provide recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists. Our land use laws don't prevent all development, but they do require careful consideration before actions are allowed which might damage these public resources. It would be reckless to remove the steps that ensure caution and broad consideration.

The bill would not only undermine Oregon's land use system, but cripple our ability to limit federal actions that could harm our estuarine environments. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the federal government has to exercise "federal consistency" with state laws that are part of a recognized coastal management program. If Oregon's coastal land use planning regulations are eliminated, we lose our leverage over the federal government through the CZMA.

Trish Mace